

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
WACO DIVISION**

WSOU INVESTMENTS, LLC d/b/a
BRAZOS LICENSING AND
DEVELOPMENT,

Plaintiff,

v.

DELL TECHNOLOGIES INC., DELL
INC., EMC CORPORATION, AND
VMWARE, INC.,

Defendants.

Case No. 6:20-cv-00480-ADA

**DEFENDANTS' REPLY IN SUPPORT OF
OPPOSED MOTION FOR INTRA-DISTRICT TRANSFER OF VENUE
TO THE AUSTIN DIVISION OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

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TABLE OF ABBREVIATIONS

| Abbreviation | Term/Document(s) |
|---|---|
| Patent | U.S. Patent No. 7,539,133 |
| Amended Complaint or Am. Compl. | Amended Complaint (D.I. 35) |
| Dell or Defendants | Dell Technologies Inc., Dell Inc., EMC Corporation, and VMware, Inc. |
| Hogan Declaration or Hogan Decl. | Declaration of Matt Hogan, Case No. 20-cv-473, D.I. 51-5 |
| Motion or Mot. | Defendants' Opposed Motion for Intra-District Transfer of Venue to the Austin Division of the Western District of Texas (D.I. 43) |
| Opposition or Opp. | Response Opposing Motion to Transfer (D.I. 55) |
| WSOU or Plaintiff | WSOU Investments, LLC d/b/a Brazos Licensing and Development |

TABLE OF EXHIBITS¹

| Exhibit | Description |
|----------------|---|
| 17 | Declarations of Matt Hogan from Cases 20-cv-454 through -465, -473 through -482, and -485 through -497 (W.D. Tex.) |
| 18 | News Articles Referencing Aqua Licensing and WSOU (last retrieved Nov. 23, 2020) |
| 19 | Federal District Court Cases from Lex Machina (obtained Nov. 22, 2020) |
| 20 | 2019 Fiscal Year Report for the Western District of Texas (last retrieved Nov. 23, 2020) |
| 21 | Microsoft Corporation's Reply in Support of its Opposed Motion to Transfer Venue to Austin Division and Exhibit 19, Case No. 20-cv-454, D.I. 34, 34-3 (W.D. Tex.) |

¹ Exhibits are attached to the Supplemental Declaration of Brian A. Rosenthal in Support of Defendants' Reply.

Defendants explained why *this* lawsuit’s unique facts demonstrate that Austin is clearly more convenient than Waco. WSOU does not address *this* lawsuit’s specific circumstances, but misrepresents the law and facts, and recycles an old declaration inapplicable to *this* case. Viewing the facts under the correct standard, this case should be transferred to Austin.

I. ARGUMENT

A. Relative Ease of Access to Sources of Proof Favors Transfer (Factor 1)

Contrary to WSOU’s argument, the ease of access to proof strongly favors transfer. The law is clear: “[T]he bulk of the relevant evidence usually comes from the accused infringer.” *Moskowitz Family LLC. v. Globus Med., Inc.*, No. 6:19-CV-00672-ADA, 2020 WL 4577710, at *3 (W.D. Tex. July 2, 2020); Mot. at 6. Defendants attempted to identify documents, including third-party documents, but Defendants’ ability to identify specific documents (or witnesses) is hampered by WSOU’s deficient allegations and contentions. Mot. at 6 n.5. WSOU does not dispute that Dell has over 14,000 employees and VMware has over 900 employees in the Austin Division—thus documents exist in Austin. Rather, WSOU is using its vague allegations and contentions as a sword, attacking Defendants for being unable to identify specific documents at this juncture. But this is a problem of WSOU’s own making.

WSOU ignores this reality and focuses on its own documents, but WSOU’s descriptions of its own documents suffer from a complete lack of specificity. Opp. at 6. It is unclear what documents WSOU has as it does not dispute that it did not develop the patent or the technology, nor ever employ the named inventors. Mot. at 2–3, 7. Indeed, it recycles the *same* Hogan declaration generically referencing documents in 35 *different* patent cases. Ex. 17. In the face of this motion (at 2–3, 7), WSOU’s refusal to explain its (few) documents for *this* case is telling.

Additionally, WSOU obscures the timing of when and why its documents were moved. WSOU does not dispute that *all* of WSOU’s activities related to the Patent occurred outside

Texas.² Mot. at 2–3. Instead, WSOU argues this is irrelevant. Opp. at 6–7. The Federal Circuit disagrees. “[T]he assertion that these documents are ‘Texas’ documents is a fiction which appears to [have] been created to manipulate the propriety of venue . . . attempts to manipulate venue in anticipation of litigation or a motion to transfer falls squarely within these prohibited activities.” *In re Hoffmann-La Roche Inc.*, 587 F.3d 1333, 1337 (Fed. Cir. 2009).

Unable to rely on the situs of its own documents, WSOU claims that Defendants’ identification of potential third-party sources such as Aqua Licensing is “irrelevant.” Opp. at 7. But WSOU’s argument relies on a misapplication of *In re Toyota Motor Corp.*, 747 F.3d 1338, 1341 (Fed. Cir. 2014). In *Toyota*, the Federal Circuit found, under the specific facts there, the outside documents did not alter the outcome. *Id.* *Toyota* did not create a rule that outside documents are irrelevant—indeed, the Federal Circuit cited two cases that considered outside documents and witnesses. *Id.* (citing *In re Genentech, Inc.*, 566 F.3d 1338, 1346 (Fed. Cir. 2009) (discussing documents in Europe) and *In re Nintendo Co., Ltd.*, 589 F.3d 1194, 1199 (Fed. Cir. 2009) (discussing witnesses in Japan)). Here, outside documents are not irrelevant, but further reinforce that WSOU’s documents are minimal, and like *Toyota*, these outside documents do not alter, but provide more support, that this factor favors transfer.

B. Cost of Attendance for Willing Witnesses Favors Transfer (Factor 3)

Defendants explained how it is more convenient for each nonparty witness, including the inventors, past owners and prior sellers of the Patent, and other third parties to have this case tried in Austin. Mot. at 7–8. Defendants also explained how it is more convenient for *both* parties’ witnesses to have the case transferred to Austin. Mot. at 8–9. WSOU does not dispute any of

² WSOU states, without any supporting declaration, that Defendants “falsely claim” that WSOU hired Aqua Licensing to sell its patents. Opp. at 3. WSOU’s naked denial is inconsistent with the available public information as set forth in several online articles. *See* Ex. 18.

Defendant’s factual support, including the flight availability, duration, and cost. Instead, WSOU propounds three generic arguments and then concludes that this factor “weighs heavily” against transfer. Opp. at 9–10. WSOU’s conclusion rests on a thrice-flawed foundation.

First, WSOU argues that Austin and Waco are equally convenient for out-of-state witnesses. See Opp. at 9. Despite Defendants’ factual support to the contrary, WSOU fails to support its statement with any evidence. Nor can it in view of the significant burden witnesses would suffer in time and/or cost if this stayed in Waco. Although WSOU cites *VLSI*, this Court’s statement regarding the convenience of Austin and Waco was based on limited record evidence assessing travel to Austin and Waco but only from the Austin and Dallas airports. *VLSI Tech. LLC v. Intel Corp.*, No. 6:19-CV-00254-ADA, 2019 WL 8013949, at *5 (W.D. Tex. Oct. 7, 2019) (discussing travel from AUS and DFW). Even under a limited record, the Court found that this factor “strongly weighs in favor of transfer” to Austin. *Id.* at 5. Here, the evidence is even stronger.

Second, WSOU argues that the identified witnesses should not be given weight without evidence about willingness. Opp. at 10. Not only is WSOU’s position—requiring a party to ascertain “willingness” before initial disclosures and pleadings are settled—unreasonable, it is also unprecedented. WSOU’s sole case does not say that a party must prove “willingness.” In *Peteski*, the court analyzed a transfer from where it had subpoena power of a potential witness to a court that did not. *Peteski Prods., Inc. v. Rothman*, No. 5:17-CV-00122-JRG, 2017 WL 8943154, at *3 (E.D. Tex. Nov. 13, 2017) (witness subject to E.D. Tex.’s subpoena power but not C.D. Cal.’s). This is why the court discussed whether the witness was willing to appear in California. *Id.* at *3–4. There is no such issue in *this* case.

Third and finally, WSOU argues that Defendants “forgot” about Dallas. Opp. at 10. It is unclear how Dallas impacts a transfer analysis between Austin and Waco, and tellingly, WSOU

could have provided, but chose not to provide any evidence about Dallas.³

C. All Other Practical Problems Favor Transfer (Factor 4)

Despite WSOU's protestations, this factor weighs in *favor* of transfer. As explained, this factor analyzes if a case is in its early stages. Mot. at 9 (citing *Mimedx Grp., Inc. v. Texas Human Biologics, Ltd.*, No. 1:14-CV-464-LY, 2014 WL 12479284, at *2 (W.D. Tex. Aug. 12, 2014)); *see also In re Apple Inc.*, 2020 WL 6554063, at *7 (Fed Cir. Nov. 9, 2020) (discussing "significant steps").⁴ WSOU does not dispute that this case is in its early stages, meaning the schedule is unlikely to be disrupted. Nor could it; this is not a transfer to a different district or judge. Mot. at 9–10. This case will remain with Your Honor but simply be heard in Austin. *Id.*

D. Localized Interests Favor Transfer (Factor 6)

Contrary to WSOU's arguments, localized interests favor transfer. WSOU admits this factor analyzes the connection of each forum to *both* the parties *and* events giving rise to the suit. Opp. at 11. It also does not dispute Defendants' long ties to the Austin Division. *See id.* Its sole dispute is if the events giving rise to the suit favor Austin. They indisputably do. Mot. at 10.

Tellingly, WSOU does not actually dispute that (1) Defendants' activities in Austin have a strong connection to the events giving rise to the suit, Opp. at 12 nor (2) that WSOU's activities relating to this lawsuit occurred *before* it ever established a presence in Waco, Mot. at 2–3. Unable

³ WSOU also argues that Defendants' Austin witnesses should be overlooked because it "merely shifts convenience." Opp. at 10. But WSOU has not established that its Waco witness has *relevant* knowledge, merely that it may strategically designate its Waco employee as a corporate witness.

⁴ WSOU unilaterally interprets factor 4 as dealing with court congestion, but it is factor 5 where congestion is considered. *Infra* § I.E. It compounds its error by relying on 2019 statistics to claim Waco is "less congested" than Austin. Current statistics indicate Waco has more civil cases per judge. Ex. 19. Defendants have not located current criminal statistics, but WSOU's claim that Austin has more criminal cases, Opp. at 10–11, is circumspect. Per the 2019 Report, cited by WSOU, Opp. at 10 n.14, more criminal cases were filed in Waco in 2019, *see* Ex. 20 at 3. Thus, WSOU has not supported its position under its erroneous view of the law. Moreover, as this case will remain with Your Honor, such statistics are meaningless. Mot. at 9–10.

to overcome these clear facts, WSOU focuses on its recent connection to Waco, stating: it “is a company headquartered in downtown Waco and has strong ties to Waco.” Opp. at 12. WSOU’s “ties” to Waco being “strong” are hyperbole and its statement does not reveal how Waco relates to the events giving rise to *this* suit. WSOU cites Mr. Hogan’s declaration; he does not discuss this suit but only *other* “business[es] and inventors.” Hogan Decl. ¶ 6. Neither is relevant here.

WSOU next pivots to unfounded, self-serving, and conclusory attorney argument about “the work and reputation of WSOU’s employees in Waco.” Opp. at 12. It makes this statement without explication or citation to any declaration about what employees are involved in *this specific* case. Despite referencing a plurality of employees, it has only named one employee—Mr. Hogan—in Waco.⁵ The Court should reject WSOU’s unsupported assertions.

E. Court Congestion/Familiarity of the Forum Factors Are Neutral (Factors 5 and 7)

WSOU argues these two factors do not favor transfer. Opp. at 11, 12. WSOU is wrong. Your Honor will retain control. Mot. at 10. Thus, congestion/familiarity will be the same.⁶

II. CONCLUSION

Because four factors collectively strongly favor transfer, and the remaining four factors are neutral,⁷ this case should be transferred to Austin, which is a clearly more convenient forum.

⁵ WSOU references Baylor students but it has not identified any student *actually* hired. Opp. at 2. WSOU mentions job postings, but neglects to mention these postings were posted only *after* a different company sued by WSOU stated it was moving to transfer. See Ex. 21 at 4–5. Finally, WSOU states that it hired an attorney, Opp. at 3, but she was not hired *before* this lawsuit, and is irrelevant to the events giving rise to the lawsuit.

⁶ WSOU ignores that Your Honor will retain jurisdiction. Instead, WSOU repeats its erroneous argument about Austin having a higher caseload per judge. See *supra* note 6. Next, WSOU’s assertion that another court could not handle a federal case, see Opp. at 11–12, is unprecedented and unsupported. Finally, WSOU relies on *Solas*, Opp. at 11, but the Federal Circuit disapproved of this reasoning. See *In re Adobe*, 545 F. App’x 929, 932 (Fed. Cir. 2020).

⁷ WSOU does not dispute the compulsory process/conflict of laws factors are neutral. Opp. at 8.

Dated: November 25, 2020

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that on this 25th day of November 2020, all counsel of record who are deemed to have consented to electronic service are being served with a copy of this document through the Court's CM/ECF system under Local Rule CV-5(b)(1).

/s/ Barry K. Shelton
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